

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Status of Claims:

Claims 1, 4 and 7-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been introduced by this.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been objected to because of a typographical error. Claim 1 has been amended to correct the typographical error, as suggested by the Examiner.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 14-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kawauchi (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0214157 and U.S. Patent No. 7,521,861). The U.S. filing date of the Kawauchi references is December 21, 2005. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §706.02(b), Applicants overcome this ground of rejection by hereby perfecting its claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to the Japanese priority Application No. 2003-344873, filed on October 2, 2003. The Patent Office has acknowledged receipt of the certified copy of the Japanese priority document. See Office Action Summary at ¶12. Attached is an English translation of Japanese priority Application No. 2003-344873 and a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate, in satisfaction of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.55(a)(4)(ii).

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 8, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawauchi in view of Yutaka (JP 2000-082588). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawauchi in view of Yoshikazu (JP 11-273869). Claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 14 are rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 11 and 12 of the Kawauchi patent.

In view of Applicants' perfection of the claim to foreign priority, the Kawauchi references no longer qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that these grounds of rejection be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing response, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under §102 and §103 be withdrawn, and all the claims be allowed such that this application may expeditiously pass to issue.

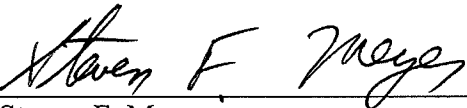
AUTHORIZATION

No fees are believed to be due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Document to Deposit Account No. **504827** Order No. **1004378-53060**. In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **504827**, Order No. **1004378-53060**.

Respectfully submitted,

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP

Dated: February 24, 2010

By: 
Steven F. Meyer
Registration No. 35,613

Correspondence Address:

85775

(212) 415-8600 (Telephone)

(212) 303-2754 (Facsimile)